

*A Tribute....***Carl Weyerhaeuser**

Carl Augustus Weyerhaeuser, a philanthropic art collector who loved literature and music, died on Oct. 22, at the age of 95, leaving behind a lasting legacy of beauty and learning.

A significant part of that legacy exists for us to share here in Duxbury, at the Art Complex Museum. Mr. Weyerhaeuser and his family founded this remarkable institution 25 years ago in the

community which had long been their summer home.

In a style which reflects the spirit of its founder, the museum celebrated its quarter-century mark this year not with fanfare and spectacle, but rather with thoughtfully presented, well-researched exhibitions representing each of the 4 major strengths of the Art Complex permanent collection: prints, Shaker furniture and artifacts, Asian art, and American paintings. These 4 areas were also Carl Weyerhaeuser's strongest interests.

Born July 24, 1901, in Little Falls, MN, Carl Weyerhaeuser grew up in St. Paul, surrounded by fine and decorative arts that had been collected by his parents, particularly his mother, Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser Sanborn. His own earliest collections were books and manuscripts. Between 1923, when he graduated cum laude from Harvard with a degree in English, and 1938, when he met his future wife Edith Greenleaf, Mr. Weyerhaeuser had already assembled more than one collection of books, including an important collection of works by Poe. Mrs. Weyerhaeuser also recalls that Carl had read the Bible 10 times, "as literature," when she met him. Throughout most of his life, he wrote and published poetic reflections of his thoughts and feelings, such as the following:

*I suppose beauty is beauty
in a desert, alone, unseen.
But how much more beautiful is beauty
shared with those who too appreciate:
the magic, when actor and audience combine,
music, when player and hearer so r.*

The library at the Art Complex Museum, which houses reference volumes as well as a lovely collection of art books which might not otherwise be available for public enjoyment, is named the Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Library because books continued to be his greatest interest throughout his life.

This penchant for books progressed into an interest in book illustrations, and subsequently, a wide range of print techniques. Visitors to the Art Complex Museum are invariably intrigued with the story of how Mr.

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Weyerhaeuser, upon completion of his studies at Harvard, was offered a Packard as a college graduation present. He preferred instead a Rembrandt print, *The Descent from the Cross by Torchlight*, which is today part of the permanent collection at the ACM.

Books, and works of art on paper, were a natural inclination for the grandson of the founder of an international lumber business of the same name, but Mr. Weyerhaeuser's interests expanded to other areas, always favoring an elegant balance of form and color, whether in dramatic paintings by George Inness, emotional etchings by Kathe Kollwitz, or a simple Shaker dwarf tall clock — all of which have been exhibited at the Art Complex Museum this year.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser also loved music. An amateur cellist, he and his wife often hosted small musical performances in his home. Today, the concert series at the Art Complex Museum is a continuation of that family tradition.

Carl and Edith Weyerhaeuser were the parents of 5 children, and their collection was enjoyed for many years in the family home. As the collection became too large to be shown all at once, art was "rotated" from display to storage. Hence, the name "Rotations" was given to an area of the Art Complex Museum set aside for exhibiting works of art from the permanent collection.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser quietly and generously supported many arts and cultural organizations. He was a founding member of Hancock Shaker Village, and established the Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Curator of Prints at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum. Locally, he contributed to the Duxbury Free Library, the Ellison Center for the Arts and the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, among others.

Mrs. Weyerhaeuser encouraged her husband to build a museum where the extraordinary works of art he had collected could be shared. Carl Weyerhaeuser, hoping to honor his family's heritage, decided that a museum should be a "monument to wood," constructed of as much wood as possible. Inside the Art Complex Museum, graceful, steam-bent beams inside mirror a distinctive curved roofline.

During the 20th anniversary, Carl Weyerhaeuser's son Charles recalled how his father had "a lasting eye for beauty that time has confirmed."

At the time of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's death, a number of fine American paintings which he collected are on exhibit in "The Light Beyond — Paintings and Prints from the Collection Depicting Dawn, Twilight and Moonlight." Among them are works by Childe Hassam, Dwight Tryon, Albert Bierstadt, and Ralph Blakelock.

At the founding of the Art Complex in 1971, Carl Weyerhaeuser expressed the following vision for his fledgling museum: "The purpose for the Art Complex Museum is to collect, house, protect and display beautiful things for the enjoyment of the public."

"From this inspiration, it is hoped school children, artists, weekend painters, everyone who studies, sees, hears, feels, will then leave the Art Complex to do their work better."

Certainly, those of us who draw upon this "inspiration" feel a deep loss at the passing of Carl Weyerhaeuser, yet a deep sense of appreciation for a man who knew that beauty shared, is indeed more beautiful.